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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6010**

**BILL NUMBER: SB 22**

**NOTE PREPARED: Oct 13, 2007**

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Teacher Licensing.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Lubbers

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ GENERAL  
☐ DEDICATED  
☐ FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill requires the Department of Education to grant an initial standard teacher's license for a specific subject area in middle school or high school to an applicant who has earned a postgraduate degree in the subject area, has experience teaching students, and complies with certain requirements for licensure.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2008.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** *Summary-* The Department of Education could see an increase in persons applying for an initial standard license as a result of the bill. However, applicants that meet the criteria of the bill would be required to comply with certain licensing requirements for an initial standard license. The requirements would include an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution of the United States, submission of a limited history check, and passage of the PRAXIS series examination. It would also require a person to have at least one academic year of teaching experience, which may include teaching experience in a college classroom. The bill could require the need for additional administrative time for the Department to process license applications. The Department's Division of Professional Standards reverted approximately \$34,000 at the close of FY 2007.

**Background Information:** *Transition to Teaching-* Under current law and administrative rule, persons with a baccalaureate degree, with certain GPA or professional restrictions, may enter into the Transition to Teaching program offered at any university within the state that offers an education undergraduate program. Typically, a person in the program must complete 18 or 24 credit hours of class work before applying for a teaching license. The bill would allow a person with a masters or doctorate degree and classroom teaching experience to bypass the credit hour requirement and upon successful completion of the PRAXIS

examination apply for a license.

Since the program's inception through October 2007, the Department had granted 1,705 teacher licenses through the Transition to Teaching program.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** The bill could generate a larger applicant pool for teaching positions in public schools. Schools, as a result, may be able to hire new teachers into specific educational areas that currently are difficult to fill. Hiring new teachers would be funded from tuition support allocations under future school funding formulas.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** Department of Education, Division of Professional Standards.

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